

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A storage unit detachable from an information processing apparatus, comprising:
  - 5 storage means for storing user information for user authentication;
  - authentication means for performing authentication processing on the basis of authentication information input from an information processing apparatus in which the storage unit is mounted, and user information stored in said storage means; and
  - 10 output means for outputting an authentication result of said authentication means.
2. The unit according to claim 1, wherein
  - 15 said authentication means performs authentication on the basis of authentication information transmitted from the information processing apparatus together with eject instruction, and the user information stored in said storage means, and
  - 20 said output means notifies the information processing apparatus of eject permission when authentication by said authentication means is successful.
3. The unit according to claim 2, wherein
  - 25 the user information includes a pair of identification information and password information which specify a user, and

said authentication means determines that authentication is successful when a pair of identification information and password information contained in the authentication information are contained in the user information.

5     4.     The unit according to claim 3, wherein the user information contains an attribute assigned to a user, and

        said authentication means determines that

10    authentication is successful when the pair of identification information and password information contained in the authentication information are contained in the user information and a user specified by the pair of identification information and password

15    information is assigned a predetermined attribute.

5.     The unit according to claim 4, wherein the predetermined attribute includes mounter information which specifies a user who is first permitted to access the storage unit.

20    6.     The unit according to claim 4, wherein the predetermined attribute information includes owner information representing an owner of the storage unit.

7.     The unit according to claim 4, wherein the unit further comprises holding means for

25    holding designation information which designates an attribute to be used for authentication processing by said authentication means, and

5        said authentication means determines that authentication is successful when the user specified by the pair of identification information and password information contained in the authentication information is assigned the attribute designated by the designation information.

8.        An information processing apparatus which allows detaching a storage unit having storage means for storing user information for 10 user authentication,

15        authentication means for performing authentication processing on the basis of authentication information input from the information processing apparatus in which the storage unit is mounted, and user information stored in the storage means, and

20        output means for outputting an authentication result of the authentication means, comprising:

25        providing means for providing an interface for causing a user to input authentication information in executing predetermined processing for the storage unit;

30        transmission means for transmitting the authentication information input via the interface to the storage unit; and

35        execution means for executing the predetermined processing for the storage unit on the basis of the

authentication result output from the output means in response to transmission of the authentication information.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the 5 predetermined processing includes eject processing for the storage unit.

10. An access control method for a storage unit detachable from an information processing apparatus, comprising:

10 a registration step of registering user information for user authentication in a storage medium arranged in the storage unit;

15 a providing step of providing an interface for causing a user to input authentication information in executing predetermined processing for the storage unit;

20 an authentication step of causing the storage unit to execute authentication processing on the basis of the authentication information input via the interface and the user information registered in the registration step; and

an execution step of executing the predetermined processing for the storage unit on the basis of an authentication result in the authentication step.

25 11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the predetermined processing includes eject processing for the storage unit.

12. A control program for causing an information processing apparatus which allows detaching a storage unit to execute predetermined processing for the storage unit, the storage unit having

5       storage means for storing user information for user authentication,

          authentication means for performing authentication processing on the basis of authentication information input from the information

10      processing apparatus in which the storage unit is mounted, and user information stored in the storage means, and

          output means for outputting an authentication result of the authentication means, eject processing

15      comprising:

          a providing step of providing an interface for causing a user to input authentication information in executing the predetermined processing for the storage unit;

20      a transmission step of transmitting the authentication information input via the interface to the storage unit;

          a reception step of receiving the authentication result output from the output means in response to

25      transmission of the authentication information; and

          an execution step of executing the predetermined processing for the storage unit on the basis of the

authentication result.

13. A computer-readable memory which stores a control program defined in claim 12.